



The Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act (H.R. 2713 and S. 2418)

The Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSUN) is the only specialty nursing organization dedicated to the practice of medical-surgical nursing. AMSUN and its more than 10,000 members represent nurses who have advanced organizational, prioritization, assessment, and communication skills and are leaders in coordinating care among interprofessional health care teams. Medical-surgical nursing is practiced in several settings across the health care industry, including hospitals, outpatient settings, in homes, via telemedicine and other non-traditional settings.

Congress must eliminate onerous practice barriers that adversely affect advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and their patients. APRNs provide high-quality, cost-effective, and patient-centered care across various health care settings. According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), more than 250,000 APRNs treated Medicare patients and approximately 40% of Medicare beneficiaries received care from an APRN. Despite their increasing importance in the health care workforce, burdensome federal laws and regulations prevent APRNs from fully serving their patients. Further, federal solutions are needed to allow APRNs to practice at the top of their license and improve access to care for millions of Americans.

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The *Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act* was introduced by Representatives Dave Joyce (R-OH), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Lauren Underwood (D-IL), Jen Kiggans (R-VA), Adrian Smith (R-NE), Kelly Armstrong (R-ND), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Glenn Grothman (R-WI), Chris Pappas (D-NH), and Ann Kuster (D-NH) on April 19, 2023. The bill would remove outdated practice barriers that restrict APRNs in states with full practice authority and strengthen access to care for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries by:

- Empowering APRNs to practice to their full scope of their education and clinical training, thereby expanding access to vital health care services and promoting continuity of care.
- Increasing the availability of APRNs nationwide to help address significant provider shortages and reduce health inequities in medically underserved areas.
- Permitting APRNs to provide more comprehensive health care services including, but not limited to, ordering and supervising cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, referring patients for medical nutrition therapy, certifying terminal illness for hospice eligibility, performing mandatory assessments in skilled nursing facilities, and more.

Recommendation: ASMSUN joins with a broad group of national stakeholders in urging Members of Congress to cosponsor the *Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act* (H.R. 2713 and S. 2418).

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact AMSUN's Washington representative, Jim Twaddell at jwtwaddell@venable.com or 202-344-4358.